

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 are currently pending in the present application, of which Claims 1 and 7-9 have been amended.

Support for the claim amendments can be found in paragraph 18 and Figure 2 of the specification.

Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's indication that Claim 12 would be allowable if it was rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-9 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by *Chen* (US 6,194,962). Applicants respectfully traverse such rejection insofar as it might apply to the claims as amended herein.

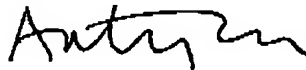
Amended Claim 1 now recites "a reference voltage generation circuit for providing a reference voltage signal to said summing circuit, wherein said reference voltage generation circuit is a differential amplifier" (lines 9-11). On page 4 of the Office Action, the Examiner asserts that the claimed reference voltage generation circuit is disclosed by *Chen* as trim circuitry 36. However, *Chen's* trim circuitry 36 is not a differential amplifier, as claimed. Because the claimed invention includes novel features that are not taught or suggested by *Chen*, the § 102 rejection is believed to be overcome.

CONCLUSION

Claims 1-15 are currently pending in the present application. For the reasons stated above, Applicants believe that independent Claim 1 along with its dependent claims are in condition for allowance. The remaining prior art cited by the Examiner but not relied upon has been reviewed and is not believed to show or suggest the claimed invention.

No fee or extension of time is believed to be necessary; however, in the event that any addition fee or extension of time is required for the prosecution of the present application, please charge it against IBM Corporation Deposit Account No. 09-0456.

Respectfully submitted,



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